

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of)	
)	
Telecommunications Relay Services and)	CG Docket No. 03-123
Speech-to-Speech Services for Individuals)	
With Hearing and Speech Disabilities)	
)	
Structure and Practices of the)	CG Docket No. 10-51
Video Relay Service Program)	

**REQUEST FOR A LIMITED WAIVER and APPLICATION
FOR RE-CERTIFICATION OF CONVO
COMMUNICATIONS, LLC**

I. Introduction

With this application for re-certification, Convo Communications, LLC (“Convo”) additionally submits a petition attached as an Appendix requesting a limited waiver of the rule requiring re-application for certification be submitted 90 days in advance of the expiration date of certification. Convo’s certification expires December 21, 2021. Convo received conditional certification to provide VRS on November 15, 2011.¹ Convo became fully certified to provide VRS on December 21, 2016.² Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. §64.606(g), Convo hereby applies for re-certification, and incorporates by reference in this document, its previous application for certification with its exhibits and asserts that all statements made in its applications and exhibits remain true and accurate, with the exception of the updates provided herein. Convo also incorporates into this application its annual compliance reports provided to the Commission since

¹ *Notice of Conditional Grant of Application of Convo Communications, LLC for Certification as a Provider of Video Relay Service Eligible for Compensation from Interstate Telecommunications Relay Service Fund*, Public Notice by the Chief, Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, DA 11-1901 (November 15, 2011).

² *Notice of Grant of Certification for Convo Communications, LLC for the Provision of Video Relay Service*, Public Notice by the Federal Communications Commission, DA 16-1433 (December 21, 2016). Convo notified the TRS Fund administrator of its intent to participate in the TRS Fund at the time it became eligible to participate in the TRS Fund as required by §64.604(c)(5)(iii)(G)

its certification, including their accompanying documentation.³ Convo continues to (1) meet or exceed all non-waived operational, technical, and functional mandatory minimum standards provided in the Commission's Telecommunication Relay Services ("TRS") rules; (2) does not differ from the mandatory minimum standards; and (3) makes available adequate procedures and remedies for ensuring ongoing compliance with the Commission's rules. Convo has consistently submitted on time reports and other information required of it under the TRS rules. Convo commits to staying in full compliance with the TRS rules⁴ and will continue to timely file all reports required by the Commission rules, including annual reports demonstrating its continued compliance with TRS rules, and updating other information.

Convo describes below how it currently meets or exceeds and will continue to meet all non-waived mandatory minimum standards for VRS provided in 47 C.F.R. §64.604 et. seq.

II. Operational Standards

Communication Assistants ("CAs")/Video Interpreters ("VIs"). All CAs at Convo continue to be subject to rigorous entrance requirements, demonstrate high level service competency, receive quality training, and are subject to the compliant employment practices as described in Convo's Application and subsequent related filings. All Convo CAs are qualified interpreters capable of interpreting effectively, accurately and impartially, both receptively and expressively,

³ Report of Convo Communications, LLC, Docket Nos 03-123, 10-51 (Dec. 18, 2020); Annual Report of Convo Communications, LLC Docket Nos. 03-123, 10-51 (Dec. 11, 2019); Annual Report of Convo Communications, LLC Docket Nos. 03-123, 10-51 (Dec. 20, 2018); Annual Report of Convo Communications, LLC Docket Nos. 03-123, 10-51 (Dec. 20, 2017); Annual Report of Convo Communications, LLC Docket Nos. 03-123, 10-51 (November 14, 2016); Annual Report of Convo Communications, LLC Docket Nos 03-123, 10-51 (Nov. 11, 2015); Annual Report of Convo Communications, LLC CG Docket Nos. 03-123, 10-51 (Nov. 13, 2014); Convo Communications, LLC Annual Report on Compliance with the Regulations Applicable to VRS As Set Forth in Section 64.604 (filed Nov. 15, 2013); Convo Communications, LLC Annual Report on Compliance with Non-Waived Mandatory Minimum Standards Applicable to VRS As Set Forth in Section 64.604 (Nov. 15, 2012).

⁴ Convo Communications, LLC, *Amended and Restated Video Relay Service Certification Application*, CG Docket No. 10-51 (filed Nov. 4, 2011).

using any necessary specialized vocabulary.⁵ All Convo CAs are required to have competent skills in grammar, spelling, and familiarity with deaf, hard of hearing and other disability cultures, languages and etiquette, and possess clear and articulate voice communications, and all CAs continue to receive training to ensure that they effectively meet the specialized communication needs of deaf and hard of hearing individuals.⁶ Convo continues to require its CAs continued to stay on each call for a minimum of ten minutes (unless the CA and the VRS user are not able to communicate effectively)⁷ and transmit conversations in real time.⁸ Convo makes its best effort to accommodate requests for CAs of a specific gender when a call is initiated or during a transfer to a new CA.⁹ CAs are strictly compensated on an hourly basis and are not compensated, given a preferential work schedule, or otherwise provided a benefit based upon the number of VRS minutes or calls that they handle, either individually or as part of a group.¹⁰

All Convo CAs are employees of the company and service all VRS calls placed through Convo with the exception of calls which require Spanish interpreting. Convo continues to contract with Purple Communications, Inc (“Purple”) to provide Spanish interpreting for calls made through Convo’s VRS involving eligible deaf and Spanish-speaking callers.¹¹ Convo additionally contracts with third party agencies for interpreting under the COVID 19 Waivers.¹² **2.**

Confidentiality and Conversation Content. Convo continues to prohibit its CAs from disclosing the contents of any relayed conversation and keeping records of the content of calls beyond the

⁵ 47 C.F.R. §64.604(a)(1)(iv).

⁶ 47 C.F.R. §64.604(a)(1)(i) and (ii).

⁷ 47 C.F.R. §64.604(a)(1)(v). Order, CG Dkt. No. 03-123, FCC 06-81, ¶¶1, 9 (June 16, 2006).

⁸ 7 C.F.R. §64.604(a)(1)(vii).

⁹ 47 C.F.R. §64.604(a)(1)(vi).

¹⁰ 47 C.F.R. §64.604(c)(5)(iii)(N)(3).

¹¹ 47 C.F.R. § 64.604(c)(5)(iii)(N)(1)(iii).

¹² See *Telecommunications Relay Services and Speech-to-Speech Services for Individuals with Hearing and Speech Disabilities; Structure and Practices of the Video Relay Service Program*, CG Docket Nos. 03-123 and 10-51, DA 21-1064. (CGB August 27, 2021)

duration of the call.¹³ Convo also continues to prohibit its CAs from intentionally altering a relayed conversation and requires that conversations are translated verbatim unless directed otherwise by the callers.¹⁴ Convo continues to maintain strict confidentiality of all VRS calls by limiting access to its call centers only to authorized personnel.

3. Types of Calls. Convo continues to prohibit its CAs from refusing single or sequential calls or limiting the length of calls.¹⁵ Convo continues to be capable of handling all types of calls that have not been waived by the Commission.¹⁶ As required by non-waived §64.604 (a)(3)(v) standards, Convo provides: a) two-line voice carry over (“VCO”) and hearing carry over (“HCO”); b) one-line VCO and HCO for SIP-based products; c) VCO and HCO to TTY; d) VCO to VCO; and e) HCO to HCO. Convo CAs alert callers when they have dialed a number answered by a recorded message and interactive menu.¹⁷ Convo supports speed dialing, three-way calling functionalities, and voicemail.¹⁸ Convo also continues to provide video mail service so that its callers may leave messages when the recipient is unavailable.

4. Emergency Call Handling. Convo continues to prioritize inbound 911 calls ahead of all incoming VRS calls and automatically and immediately connects such calls with the appropriate Public Safety Answering Point (“PSAP”).¹⁹ For dialed around emergency calls, the Convo CA immediately collects the name and location information of the caller to connect with the appropriate PSAP.²⁰ Convo ensures that any information obtained as a result of handling an

¹³ 47 C.F.R. §64.604(a)(2)(i).

¹⁴ 47 C.F.R. §64.604(a)(2)(ii).

¹⁵ 47 C.F.R. §64.604(a)(3)(i).

¹⁶ 47 C.F.R. §64.604(a)(3)(ii). Report and Order, Order, Declaratory Ruling, and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, CG Docket No. 03-123, 79 FR 62875 (rel. August 22, 2014, pub. October 21, 2014); Convo Communications LLC, Minimum Standards Waiver Report (April 16, 2013)

¹⁷ 47 C.F.R. §64.604(a)(3)(vii), codified for TTY users, has been implemented by Convo to the extent practicable for VRS

¹⁸ 47 C.F.R. §64.604(a)(3)(vi); 47 C.F.R. §64.604(a)(3)(viii).

¹⁹ 47 C.F.R. §64.604(a)(4) applies to TTY-based TRS providers, 47 C.F.R. §64.605 provides the additional emergency calling requirements for Internet-based TRS providers.

²⁰ 47 C.F.R. §64.605(a)(2)(iii).

emergency call is made available only to PSAP or law enforcement personnel and is used for the sole purpose of identifying the caller's location or for other emergency or law enforcement purposes.²¹ Convo obtains a registered location from customers as part of its initiation of service²² and provides them with several methods of updating their registered location at will, in a timely manner, including through the use of iTRS access technology.²³

For each 911 call, Convo transmits to the PSAP or appropriate local emergency authority information from or through the appropriate automatic location ("ALI") database²⁴ and ensures that the PSAP has the Automatic Number Identification ("ANI"), the caller's registered location, the name of the VRS provider and the CA's identification number.²⁵ To the extent that the PSAP, designated statewide default answering point, or appropriate local emergency authority is incapable of receiving and processing either ANI or location information, Convo still transmits the caller's registered location through the wireline E911 network.²⁶ Convo also can immediately re-establish contact with the user and the appropriate emergency authority and resume handling the call in the event one or both legs of the call are disconnected.²⁷

5. Visual Privacy Screens/Idle Calls. Convo continues to prohibit its CAs from using privacy screens and requires the disconnection of a VRS call if a party enables a privacy screen or similar feature or is otherwise unresponsive or unengaged for more than 5 minutes, unless it is a 911 emergency call or the caller or called party is legitimately on hold and is present and waiting for active communications to commence.²⁸

²¹ 47 C.F.R. §64.605(a)(2)(vi).

²² 47 C.F.R. §64.605(b)(4)(i).

²³ 47 C.F.R. §64.605(b)(4)(ii).

²⁴ 47 C.F.R. §64.605(b)(2)(iv).

²⁵ 47 C.F.R. §64.605(b)(2)(ii).

²⁶ 47 C.F.R. §64.605(b)(2)(iii).

²⁷ 47 C.F.R. §64.605(b)(2)(v).

²⁸ 47 C.F.R. §64.604(a)(6).

6. International Calls. Convo continues to prohibit VRS calls which originate from an international IP address with the exception of calls made by customers who have pre-registered with Convo for specified time periods and regions of their travel and Convo verifies the identity and location of such callers.²⁹

III. Technical Standards

1. Speed of Answer. Convo continues to meet or exceed the FCC's requirement that at least 80 percent of all VRS calls are answered within 120 seconds, measured on a monthly basis, including abandoned calls.³⁰ Convo also ensures adequate staffing to ensure compliance with the speed of answer requirements.³¹

2. TRS Facilities. Convo continues to provide VRS in real-time twenty four hours a day, seven days a week.³² The Convo network continues to incorporate redundancy as described in its Application in every single aspect involved in Convo's call processing and operations, including throughout Convo's data processing and storage facilities, hardware, software, public and private networks, and connections, to ensure reliable and continuous service.³³

Convo submitted notice of its intent to participate in the Commission's pilot program for at-home interpreting on April 11th, 2019, and was granted permission on April 30th, 2019. Prior to proceeding with a launch of an at-home interpreting program, the COVID-19 pandemic swept the

²⁹ 47 C.F.R. §64.604(a)(7).

³⁰ 47 C.F.R. §64.604(b)(2)(iii). In *Sorenson Communications Inc., et al v. Federal Communications Commission, et al* (No. 13-1215 (September 2, 2014)), the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit vacated the Commission's recently adopted speed of answer requirement and remanded it to the Commission for further consideration. Convo complies with the speed of answer requirement as currently effective.

³¹ 47 C.F.R. §64.604(b)(2)(i).

³² 47 C.F.R. §64.604(b)(4)(i).

³³ 47 C.F.R. §64.604(b)(4)(ii).

country, and Convo overnight set up an at-home program under the Commission's waiver of the pertinent at-home rules.³⁴

Convo continues to independently own and operate its automatic call distribution ("ACD") platform.³⁵

3. Caller ID. Convo continues to automatically transmit to the called party the ten digit number of the calling party, when available, or Convo's facility number.³⁶

IV. Functional Standards

1. **Public Access to Information.** Convo continues to engage in efforts to educate all segments of the public of the availability of VRS.³⁷ Convo regularly conducts public outreach activities regarding the availability and benefit of VRS through online resources, such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Internet blogs, as well as through sponsorship of a variety of deaf and hard of hearing events, conferences and exhibits.

2. **Rates.** Convo continues to handle long distance calls at no charge to its users.³⁸

3. **Data Collection and Audits.** Convo continues to track and report true and accurate call data, including historical and projected information.³⁹ Convo continues to employ an automated record keeping system to capture call records and speed of answer compliance data⁴⁰ and submits such data electronically, in a standardized format, without allowing human intervention during the call session for either conversation or session time.⁴¹ A Convo senior

³⁴ 47 C.F.R. §64.604(b)(4)(iii); Convo submitted notice of its intent to participate in the Commission's pilot program for at-home interpreting on April 11, 2019; and was granted a waiver April 30, 2019 in order to participate.

³⁵ 47 C.F.R. §64.604(b)(4)(iv).

³⁶ 47 C.F.R. §64.604(b)(6).

³⁷ 47 C.F.R. §64.604(c)(3).

³⁸ 47 C.F.R. §64.604(c)(4).

³⁹ 47 C.F.R. §64.604(c)(5)(iii)(D)(1), (2) and (3).

⁴⁰ 47 C.F.R. §64.604(c)(5)(iii)(D)(4)(i).

⁴¹ 47 C.F.R. §64.604(c)(5)(iii)(D)(4)(ii).

executive with first-hand knowledge always certifies the accuracy, completeness and compliancy of the information provided.⁴² Convo's submissions have generally proven to be complete, reliable and effective for the TRS Fund Administrator. Where necessary, Convo promptly corrects errors identified in its filings. Convo has always submitted to Commission audits and commits to continuing to do so in the future.⁴³ Convo retains all of its call detail records and other substantiating information reported, in an electronic format, for a minimum of five years.⁴⁴

4. **Whistleblower Protections.** Convo continues to provide in writing an accurate and complete description of the TRS whistleblower protections to all covered personnel, including in its VRS Compliance Manual and employee handbook. Convo also posts the information in common areas at all Convo work spaces. Information regarding whistleblower protections is also included in compliance trainings.⁴⁵

5. **Eligibility for Reimbursement.** Convo continues to offer its services in a manner which clearly identifies Convo as the provider of such service and Convo does not offer a sub-brand.⁴⁶ All third-party contracts to provide Convo with services or functions related to the provision of VRS are in writing and are available to the Commission or the TRS Fund Administrator upon request.⁴⁷

⁴² 47 C.F.R. §64.604(c)(5)(iii)(D)(5), §64.604(c)(5)(iii)(I).

⁴³ 47 C.F.R. §64.604(c)(5)(iii)(D)(6).

⁴⁴ 47 C.F.R. §64.604(c)(5)(iii)(D)(7).

⁴⁵ 47 C.F.R. §64.604(c)(5)(iii)(M).

⁴⁶ 47 C.F.R. §64.604(c)(5)(iii)(N)(1)(iii).

⁴⁷ 47 C.F.R. §64.604(c)(5)(iii)(N)(1)(v).

6. **Call Center Reports.** Convo has timely filed written reports with the Commission and the TRS Fund Administrator providing the required call center information bi-annually and at least 30 days in advance of any changes to its call centers.⁴⁸

7. **Remote Training Session Calls.** Convo continues not to arrange, schedule, sponsor, host, conduct or promote remote training sessions or comparable activity which involve VRS calls.⁴⁹

8. **Consumer Complaints.** Convo continues to be compliant with all procedures and time frames specified in the Commission's rules for the handling and resolution of consumer formal or informal complaints filed against Convo and has maintained and timely submitted consumer complaint logs.⁵⁰ Convo's designated agent for receiving complaints, inquiries, orders, decisions and notices from the Commission is Jeff Rosen, General Counsel, 2028 E Ben White Blvd, #240-2168, Austin, TX 78741, 240-406-7238, jeff@convorelay.com.

9. **End-User Information.** Any customer information that Convo acquires is used only for the purpose of connecting TRS users with called parties, and is not sold, distributed, shared or revealed in any other way.⁵¹ As further provided below, Convo fully complies with the applicable rules pertaining to the handling of customer proprietary network information ("CPNI.")

10. **Discrimination and Preferences.** Convo has not and will not: (i) directly or indirectly, by any means or device, engage in any unjust or unreasonable discrimination related to practices, facilities, or services for or in connection with its relay service; (ii) engage in or give

⁴⁸ 47 C.F.R. §64.604(c)(5)(iii)(N)(2).

⁴⁹ 47 C.F.R. §64.604(c)(5)(iii)(N)(4).

⁵⁰ 47 C.F.R. §§64.604(c)(1), 64.604(c)(6).

⁵¹ 47 C.F.R. §64.604(c)(7)

any undue or unreasonable preference or advantage to any particular person, class of persons, or locality, or (iii) subject any particular person, class of persons, or locality to any undue or unreasonable prejudice or disadvantage.⁵²

11. **Unauthorized and Unnecessary use of VRS.** Convo has not and will not engage in any practice that causes or encourages: (i) false or unverified claims for TRS Fund compensation; (ii) unauthorized use of VRS; (iii) the making of VRS calls that would not otherwise be made; or (iv) the use of VRS by persons who do not need the service in order to communicate in a functionally equivalent manner.⁵³ Convo will not seek payment from the TRS Fund for any minutes of service it knows or has reason to know are resulting from such practices. If Convo becomes aware of such practices being or having been committed by any person, Convo will, as soon as practicable, report such practices to the Commission or the TRS Fund Administrator. Convo requires its CAs to immediately terminate any calls which do not involve an individual eligible to use VRS and which do not appear to be a legitimate VRS call pursuant to the TRS rules and Convo's internal policies.

V. Notification Requirements

1. Substantive Changes. Convo has notified and will continue to notify the Commission of substantive changes in its TRS program, service, or features within 60 days of the time that such changes occur, and will certify continued compliance with the FCC's minimum standards after such changes are implemented.⁵⁴

⁵² 47 C.F.R. §64.604(c)(12).

⁵³ 47 C.F.R. §64.604(c)(13).

⁵⁴ 47 C.F.R. §64.606(f)(2).

2. **Service Interruptions.** Convo commits to providing VRS without unauthorized voluntary service interruptions.⁵⁵ If Convo seeks to voluntarily interrupt service, Convo will seek advance authorization. In the event of an unforeseen service interruption due to circumstances beyond Convo's control, Convo will timely provide information to the Commission via written notice and to the public through an accessible website as prescribed in the TRS rules.⁵⁶

3. **User Notifications.** Convo continues to provide the required advisory on its website and promotional materials to VRS users regarding E911 services and numbering, and keeps a record of registered users' affirmative acknowledgment upon registration of having received and understood the advisory.⁵⁷

VI. Customer Registration, Phone Numbers, Porting & Proprietary Information

1. **Default Provider.** Convo continues to provide users with the capability to register with Convo as the user's "default provider." When a user asks for Convo to be their default provider, Convo assigns a geographically appropriate North American Numbering Plan ("NANP") telephone number for new registrants; and will route and deliver all of the user's inbound and outbound calls unless the user chooses to place a call with, or receives a call from, an alternate provider. Convo also continues to require its customers to self-certify in accordance with the TRS rules as part of Convo's registration process, maintains the confidentiality of the registration and certification information and verifies that the location provided by the customer in registering is complete, accurate, and in the United States or its territories.⁵⁸ Convo continues to obtain and handle routing information compliant with the TRS rules.⁵⁹ Convo does not

⁵⁵ 47 C.F.R. §64.606(h)(1).

⁵⁶ 47 C.F.R. §64.606(h)(2) and (3).

⁵⁷ 47 C.F.R. §64.611(g).

⁵⁸ 47 C.F.R. §64.611(a)(3).

⁵⁹ 47 C.F.R. §64.611(c).

provision proxy numbers.⁶⁰ Convo continues not to assign or issue VRS users toll free numbers, and links on request any VRS user's toll free number subscribed from a toll free service provider with a geographically appropriate NANP number in the TRS Numbering Directory.⁶¹

2. Change of Default Provider. Convo commits to strict compliance with the TRS rules on changes to default TRS providers.⁶² Convo and its numbering partner will not port a number prior to obtaining verified authorization from the user by a written or electronically signed authorization. Convo will maintain for at least 5 years all records of the verified authorization. Convo will implement the port in almost all cases immediately upon verification, but no later than 60 days after. During the port, Convo will not (i) reduce the level or quality of service, or (ii) reduce the functionality of VRS access technology. Convo's letter of authorization continues to be a separate document, located on a separate screen or webpage and is titled "Letter of Authorization to Change my Default Provider." Convo requires that the letter of authorization be agreed upon by the user and is electronically dated. Convo's letters of authorization submitted with an electronically signed authorization includes the consumer disclosures required by Section 101(c) of the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act. Convo's letter of authorization is written with a type of sufficient size and readable type to be clearly legible and contains clear and unambiguous language that confirms: (1) the user's registered name and address and each telephone number; (2) the decision to change the default provider; (3) that the user designates Convo to act as the iTRS user's agent and authorizing the new default provider to implement the default provider change; and (4) that the user understands that only one iTRS provider may be designated as the TRS user's default provider for any one

⁶⁰ 47 C.F.R. §64.611(d).

⁶¹ 47 C.F.R. §64.611(e); 47 C.F.R. §64.613(a)(3).

⁶² 47 C.F.R. §64.631 through 64.636.

telephone number. Convo does not and will not affect freezes which prevent a change in a user's default provider selection unless the user requests a freeze and provides express consent.

When informed by a user of an unauthorized default provider change, Convo will (i) notify the FCC's Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau (CGB) and shall inform that iTRS user of the right to file a complaint with the CGB. Convo will also inform the iTRS user that they may contact and file a complaint with the alleged unauthorized default provider. Not more than 30 days after notification of an unauthorized port-into Convo, Convo will provide to the CGB a copy of any valid proof of verification of the change. Convo will identify to the TRS Fund Administrator all minutes associated with the user after the date of the alleged unauthorized change.

3. CPNI. Per 47 C.F.R. §64.5105 et seq., Convo does not and will not track, use, disclose or permit access to CPNI related to a customer call to a competing provider. Convo understands the limited circumstances it may use, disclose or permit access to CPNI. Convo requires and provides yearly CPNI training, maintains a record of CPNI use, has a supervisory review process, a disciplinary process should CPNI information be misused, certifies CPNI compliance on an annual basis, and has a plan in place to notify CGB if the opt-out process fails. Convo's policy on CPNI use provides individual notice including all the required information to customers when soliciting approval to use, disclose, or permit access to customers' CPNI. Convo follows the limits on the permissible use, disclosure and access to CPNI. Convo understands that it may obtain opt-in approval to use CPNI through written, oral, electronic, or sign language methods and that such approval or disapproval must remain in effect until the customer revokes, whether in written, oral, electronic, or sign language methods. Convo continues not to share CPNI with third parties; and continues to only use CPNI information for the purpose of providing VRS to its customers.

Convo's policy on CPNI record keeping is to maintain records of approval during the time period that the approval or disapproval is in effect and for at least one year thereafter. Convo requires that notification to obtain opt-out approval be delivered through electronic or written methods, but not by oral or sign language communication (except to obtain limited, one-time use of CPNI for inbound and outbound customer telephone, TRS, or point-to-point contacts for the duration of the call). Convo's policy is to wait a 30-day minimum period of time after giving customers notice and an opportunity to opt-out before assuming customer approval to use, disclose, or permit access to CPNI. Convo authenticates a customer prior to disclosing CPNI based on a customer-initiated telephone contact, TRS call, point-to-point call, online account access, or an in-store visit. Convo will notify law enforcement of a breach of its customers' CPNI as provided in the TRS rules, and will not notify its customers or disclose the breach publicly, whether voluntarily or under state or local law or these rules, until it has completed the process of notifying law enforcement.

Pursuant to Section 64.5109(e) of the Commission's rules, Convo's Annual CPNI Compliance Certification for 2019 is included in this Report as Exhibit G.

VII. Interoperability, Technology and Registration Database

1. Interoperability. All Convo customers are able to place a VRS call through any of Convo's products. Convo's VRS is able to receive calls from, and make calls to, any VRS user. Convo does not and will not take steps that restrict a user's unfettered access to another provider's service, such as providing degraded service quality to VRS users using VRS equipment or service with another provider's service. Convo's provision of VRS and video communications, including their access technology meets the requirements of the VRS Interoperability Profile. Convo participates in the bi-annual interoperability conferences with other VRS providers, as well as routinely tests with providers to ensure Convo products are interoperable with the products of other providers.

2. Technology. As noted in Convo's 2012 annual report, Convo migrated to an ACD platform developed in-house by its own engineers on June 21, 2012. Since then, there has been no change in the foundational technology and equipment used to support Convo's call center functions.

3. Database Provisioning. Convo transmits to the TRS User Registration Database (“TRS-URD”) a user’s full name; residential address; ten digit number; last four digits of their social security number or Tribal identification number, if the registered user is a member of a Tribal nation and does not have a social security number; date of birth; registered location; VRS provider name; dates of initiation and termination; a digital copy of the user’s self-certification of eligibility to use VRS and the date obtained by the provider; the date on which the user’s information was verified; as well as the users’ certifications and consent to transmit their information to the TRS-URD. Potential users that do not pass the identification verification check conducted through the TRS-URD are unable to make VRS calls. When registering a user that is changing from another Default Provider to Convo as a Default Provider, Convo submits a properly executed certification if a query of the TRS-URD shows a certification has not been filed. Convo validates during the call setup process, prior to call placement, the eligibility of the user by querying TRS-URD on a per-call basis. If the call is a 911 call, Convo allows the call to connect. Convo requests the removal from TRS-URD user information for any registered user: (A) who informs its default provider that it no longer wants use of a ten-digit number for TRS services; or (B) for whom the provider obtains information that the user is not eligible to use the service.

When the TRS-URD Administrator indicates it is ready, Convo will begin to upload to the TRS-URD the requisite information for enterprise and public video phones.

4. Hearing Users. Convo will obtain from hearing users the information and certification required by §64.611(a)(5). Further, Convo will ensure confidentiality of this information except as is required by law or regulation; such information will be treated as CPNI (see Exhibit G.) Convo will not recognize hearing numbers as VRS numbers and as such will not submit for

compensation from the TRS Fund for any VRS calls generated by a hearing iTRS number in compliance with §64.611(a)(5)(ix).

VIII. Financial Interest and Organizational Structure

The Commission requires a submission of a list of individuals or entities that hold at least a 10 percent equity interest in the provider, have the power to vote 10 percent or more of the securities of the provider, or exercise *de jure* or *de facto* control over the provider⁶⁵. Exhibit A updates the list of individuals that hold at least a 10 percent equity interest in Convo, have the power to vote 10 percent or more of the securities of Convo, or exercise *de jure* or *de facto* control over the provider. Exhibit D updates Convo's organizational structure.

IX. Certification Documentation

The following information is attached to this Report as an update to the documents Convo provided the Commission with its Application and subsequent related filings:

- Exhibit A – “Ownership Information”;
- Exhibit B – “Call Center Leases”;
- Exhibit C – “Convo Compliance Plan”;
- Exhibit D – “Organizational Structure Diagram”;
- Exhibit E – “Number of Convo’s TRS Personnel”;
- Exhibit F - “List of Sponsorship Agreements” ;
- Exhibit G – “Convo’s Annual Customer Proprietary Network Information Compliance Certification for 2019”
- Exhibit H – “Convo’s At-Home Program Information”

Convo certifies that, other than the updates provided herein and attached to this Report, there are no changes to the information and documentation submitted with its Application and subsequent related filings.

IX. Conclusion

Convo has provided and remains committed to providing VRS fully compliant with the Commission's TRS rules and guidance. Convo will continue to file annual compliance reports demonstrating continued compliance with these rules. Convo appreciates the opportunity to provide high quality, innovative products and services for VRS users.

Respectfully submitted,

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September 29, 2021

CERTIFICATION

I swear under penalty of perjury that I am Jarrod Musano, Chief Executive Officer, an officer of the above-named reporting entity, and that I have examined the foregoing submissions, and that all information required under the Commission's rules and orders has been provided and all statements of fact, as well as all documentation contained in this submission, are true, accurate, and complete.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jarrod Musano", written in a cursive style.

Jarrod Musano, CEO

Date: September 29, 2021

Appendix

PETITION FOR WAIVER

Convo Communications, LLC (“Convo”) pursuant to section 1.3 of the Federal Communications Commission’s (“Commission”) rules, hereby requests a waiver of Section 64.606(c)(2) of the Commission’s rules, in connection with its Video Relay Service offerings¹. Section 64.606(c)(2) requires that a provider of telecommunications relay service seeking re-certification must submit its application for re-certification 90 days in advance of the expiration of its certification².

Convo requests a waiver of 64.606(c)(2) so that its application for re-certification may be considered by the Commission. Convo submits with this waiver its application for re-certification one week after the due date, in advance of 80 days prior to expiration of its certification.

I. Discussion

a. Waiver Standard

The Commission’s rules establish that a waiver may be appropriate where good cause can be shown. The Commission may exercise discretion to waive a rule when strict compliance can be demonstrated to be inconsistent with public interest³. The Commission may further take into account any equity considerations of an overall policy⁴. Good cause to waive a rule exists if special circumstances warrant a deviation from the rule, and if that deviation will serve the public interest⁵.

b. Equitable Considerations Justify Grant of This Request

An evaluation of a video relay service provider’s application for re-certification on the merits serves the public interest in a true evaluation of a provider’s qualifications for certification. The public interest is not served by denying Convo the opportunity to be considered for re-certification on a technical

¹ 47 C.F.R. 1.3 (allowing a Commission rule to be waived for “good cause.”)

² 47 C.F.R. Section 64.606(C)(2)

³ Northeast Cellular Telephone Co. v. FCC, 897 F.2d 1164, 1166 (D.C. Cir. 1990).

⁴ WAIT Radio v. FCC, 418 F.2d 1153, 1159 (D.C. Cir. 1969), cert. denied, 409 U.S. 1027 (1972); Northeast Cellular, 897 F.2d at 1166

⁵ Northeast Cellular Telephone Co. v. FCC, 897 F.2d 1164, 1166 (D.C. Cir. 1990); WAIT Radio v. FCC, 418 F.2d 1153, 1157 (D.C. Cir. 1969).

miscalculation of when the 90 days began to go into effect. With equitable considerations present, a grant of a waiver to allow Convo's application for re-certification to be accepted is in the public interest.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amanda Montgomery".

Amanda Montgomery
Chief Legal Officer
Convo Communications LLC
2028 E Ben White Blvd, #240-2168
Austin, TX 78741
amanda.montgomery@convorelay.com

Exhibit A
Ownership Interests

The individuals or entities that directly or indirectly hold at least a 10 percent equity interest in the provider, have the power to vote 10 percent or more of the securities of the provider, or exercise de jure or de facto control over the provider are:

[REDACTED]

Exhibit B

Call Center Leases

[REDACTED]

Exhibit C

Convo FCC Regulatory Compliance Plan

Convo Communications, LLC (“Convo”), as a provider of Telecommunications Relay Services (“TRS”), is committed to full and complete compliance with the rules and regulations of the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”). Convo has adopted and implemented policies and procedures for complying with the Communications Act (47 U.S.C. § 151 et seq.), FCC’s TRS rules (47 C.F.R. § 64.601 et seq.), and the FCC’s Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, dated June 10, 2013 (¶ 134).

Contents

- Compliance Officer
- VRS Compliance Manual
- Operational Procedures
- Compliance Training
- Whistleblower Policy and Procedures
- Monthly Review of Minutes
- Enforcement

Compliance Officer

Jeff Rosen is the Compliance Officer for Convo. Jeff Rosen can be reached at jeff@convorelay.com or (240) 406-7238. The Compliance Officer is directly responsible for ensuring compliance with §64.604(c)(13) of the TRS rules and the implementation of this Compliance Plan. More specifically, the Compliance Officer oversees: planning and coordinating compliance training for all managers; tracking and responding to changes in the Convo’s business that may impact compliance issues, including assessment of Convo services, products, programs and activities to ensure that they are consistent with the applicable laws and regulations, and with policies that Convo has adopted. The Compliance Officer partners with the Chief Legal Officer, Amanda Montgomery, in the implementation of the Compliance Plan. The Convo Compliance Plan is published and available to its personnel on Convo’s intranet. The Compliance Officer reports to the Chief Executive Officer.

The Compliance Officer has access to all Convo information, records and documentation. This includes the right to interview employees in connection with investigations of potential non-compliance issues.

Any employee of the Convo has the right to consult with the Compliance Officer and the Chief Legal Officer regarding compliance issues. All such meetings will be treated with confidentiality, and provide a venue for employees to anonymously report matters that may raise compliance issues. Convo will not retaliate against any employee raising a compliance issue, nor tolerate retaliation

against an employee raising a compliance issue. Any individual shall have the ability to report any issues anonymously and confidentially.

VRS Compliance Manual

Convo has published and made available to its personnel on Convo's intranet a VRS Compliance Manual. The Manual provides information on Commission TRS rules and requirements applicable to VRS providers.

Operating Procedures

Convo has documented and made available to its personnel on Convo's intranet detailed operational policies and practices for the areas of customer support, general operations, human resources and interpreting/call/centers. These operating procedures ensure awareness, consistency and compliance with the applicable laws, regulations and policies.

Compliance Training

Convo's Compliance Officer trained Convo management on the VRS Compliance Manual and Operating Procedures. Convo managers were required to discuss the VRS Compliance Manual and Operating Procedures with employees and sub-contractors under their supervision. Convo personnel are regularly notified of updates to FCC rules and Convo compliance information to ensure continuous compliance with FCC regulations. Convo conducts its compliance training annually.

Convo's compliance training also includes vlogs detailing TRS rules – current and new – to ensure awareness and compliance with these regulations.

Whistleblower Policy and Procedures

Employees are informed of their right to report fraud, waste, or abuse, anonymously or not, and how they can do so in the VRS Compliance Manual Operating Procedures and training.

Convo provides a complete description of whistleblower protections posted on its internal websites and at its Call Centers. Convo also advises personnel that waste, fraud or abuse may also be reported to the FCC's Office of Inspector General at (202) 418-0473, toll free at (888) 863-2244 or by e-mailing hotline@fcc.gov (for more information, see: www.fcc.gov/oig).

Employees may contact their supervisor or the executive officer of their department to report any compliance concern. The supervisor or executive officer is to contact the Compliance Officer regarding the matter. If employees prefer to make such reports anonymously, they can do so in writing.

Convo shall not take any reprisal in the form of a personnel action against any current or former employee or contractor who discloses to a Convo Manager, the Commission, the TRS Fund administrator or to any federal or state law enforcement entity, any information that the reporting person reasonably believes evidences known or suspected violations of the Communications Act or TRS regulations, or any other activity that the reporting person reasonably believes constitutes waste, fraud, or abuse, or that otherwise could result in the improper billing of minutes of use to the TRS Fund and discloses that information to a Convo Manager, the Commission, the TRS Fund administrator or to any federal or state law enforcement entity.

Monthly Review of Minutes

Convo's submission of minutes to the TRS Fund Administrator encompasses the following procedures:

Preparation

[REDACTED]

Review

[REDACTED]

Certification

[REDACTED]

Monitoring and Enforcement

Convo regularly engages in self-audit with compliance requirements by reviewing TRS rules with managers. Convo subjects any new services and products to rigorous review for compliance with TRS rules before public release. Convo actively monitors VI and customer support reports and interactions to guide compliant practices.

If Convo finds that one or more of its employees have violated TRS Rules in any way, the Compliance Officer, after consulting with qualified person(s), will take appropriate disciplinary measures up to and including suspension, termination, and referral to the appropriate governmental authorities.

If, for whatever reason, it is found that minutes have been improperly billed, Convo will submit a revised or corrected billing report to the TRS Fund Administrator at its earliest opportunity.

Exhibit D

Organizational Structure Diagram

[REDACTED]

Exhibit E

Number of Convo's TRS Personnel

1. Executive and Officers: [REDACTED]
2. Video Phone Installers: [REDACTED]
3. Communication Assistants: [REDACTED]
4. Marketing & Sponsorship: [REDACTED]

Exhibit F

List of Sponsorship Agreements Related to iTRS

[REDACTED]

Total value of all sponsorships: [REDACTED]

Exhibit G

Convo's Annual CPNI Compliance Certification for 2021

- 1. Date filed:** 12/18/2020, covering the prior calendar year 2019
- 2. Name of company(s) covered by this certification:** Convo Communications, LLC.
- 3. Name of signatory:** Jeff Rosen
- 4. Title of signatory:** General Counsel
- 5. Certification:**

I, Jeff Rosen, certify that I am an officer of the company named above, and acting as an agent of the company, that I have personal knowledge that the company has established operating procedures that are adequate to ensure compliance with the Commission's CPNI rules for iTRS providers, 47 C.F.R. §64.5105 *et seq.*

Attached to this certification is an accompanying statement explaining how the company's procedures ensure that the company is in compliance with the requirements (including those mandating the adoption of CPNI procedures, training, recordkeeping, and supervisory review) set forth in section 64.5105 *et seq.* of the Commission's rules as applicable.

The company has not taken actions (i.e., proceedings instituted or petitions filed by a company at either state commissions, the court system, or at the Commission against data brokers) against data brokers in the past year.

The company has not received customer complaints in the past year concerning the unauthorized release of CPNI.

The company represents and warrants that the above certification is consistent with 47. C.F.R. § 1.17 which requires truthful and accurate statements to the Commission. The company also acknowledges that false statements and misrepresentations to the Commission are punishable under Title 18 of the U.S. Code and may subject it to enforcement action

Exhibit H

Convo's At Home Program Information

- I. The total number of VIs handling VRS calls from at home workstations over the preceding year amounted to: [REDACTED]
- II. The total number of 911 calls handled by our home workstations amounted to: [REDACTED]
- III. The total number of complaints submitted to the provider regarding its at home call handling program or calls handled by at-home CAs amounted to: [REDACTED]
- IV. A description of any substantive changes in the VRS provider's currently effective at-home call-handling compliance plan is below:
 - A. There have been no substantive changes in the VRS provider's currently effective at-home call-handling compliance plan since last reported on April 9, 2021.

Attachment

Statement of Company CPNI Procedures

Convo Communications, LLC ("Convo") has established an operating procedure which provides detailed information to employees about the applicable CPNI rules and procedures. Convo has also posted a link to its privacy policy on the front page of its website which includes information for consumers about CPNI rights and obligations. Convo employees received a briefing on the Convo CPNI operating procedure and privacy policy to ensure compliance with CPNI requirements.

CPNI data is accessible only to those employees with a "need to know" for purposes of serving current subscribers. Those employees with access to CPNI, as well as all Convo managers, receive CPNI training upon onboarding and again on an annual basis to ensure confidence in Convo employees understanding and compliance of CPNI rules. All employees are strictly held to non-disclosure obligations. The Company does not sell, or otherwise release, CPNI to other entities under any circumstances. All contacts with customers are documented through retention of electronic notes and retained for a minimum of three years, as set forth in 47 C.F.R. §64.5109. All Convo sales or marketing campaigns are reviewed by its General Counsel to ensure strict compliance with the Commission's CPNI regulations.

Convo will provide CPNI to a law enforcement agency in accordance with applicable legal requirements. Generally, such legal requirements entail a warrant or subpoena detailing the specific CPNI to be furnished. Convo employees are directed to refer all law enforcement requests for CPNI (whether or not accompanied by a warrant or subpoena) to the Compliance Officer.